

**Newaygo County Treasurer  
Testimony on  
HOUSE BILL No. 5398  
(Allowing Jurisdictional Transfers of Property)**

The overarching goal of this HB 5398 is two-fold:

1. To successfully combine small parcels of land that are currently not on the tax roll and/or are continuing to tax revert due to inaccessibility or their non-buildable size to tax producing parcels through jurisdictional transfer to the County Treasurer.
2. Assist the State, USFS, and other governmental entities in facilitating the return of public lands to private ownership.

This legislation promotes cooperation and collaboration among governmental units to ultimately produce/conserve revenues for the County and the State, stop these small parcels from circulating through the tax foreclosure process repeatedly, and bring economic revitalization to areas that desperately need it.

**Examples of Opportunities for Jurisdictional Transfers**

The properties depicted on the attached maps are located in the plats of Woodland Park, Merrill Township, Newaygo County. They are 25' by 100' or smaller. The current zoning requires a minimum of four (4) consecutive lots with 100' of road frontage to be buildable. A majority of the platted roads were never created and what roads do exist are mostly unpaved. The standard block in these Woodland Park plats measure 200' by 625' for a total of three (3) acres more or less.

**Area #1 - Proposed Project with the DNR**

Example No. 1: A combination of Treasurer owned and DNR owned property that could be large enough to stand alone or purchased by an existing neighbor. This would also give access to an existing road.

Example No.2: A combination of Treasurer owned and DNR owned property that could be large enough to stand alone or purchased by an existing neighbor. This would also give access to an existing road.

**Area #2**

Example No.3, No. 4 and No.5: All are combination of Treasurer owned and DNR owned property that could be large enough to stand alone or purchased by an existing neighbor. These combinations could give access to an existing road and in some cases be made even larger by adding USFS land.

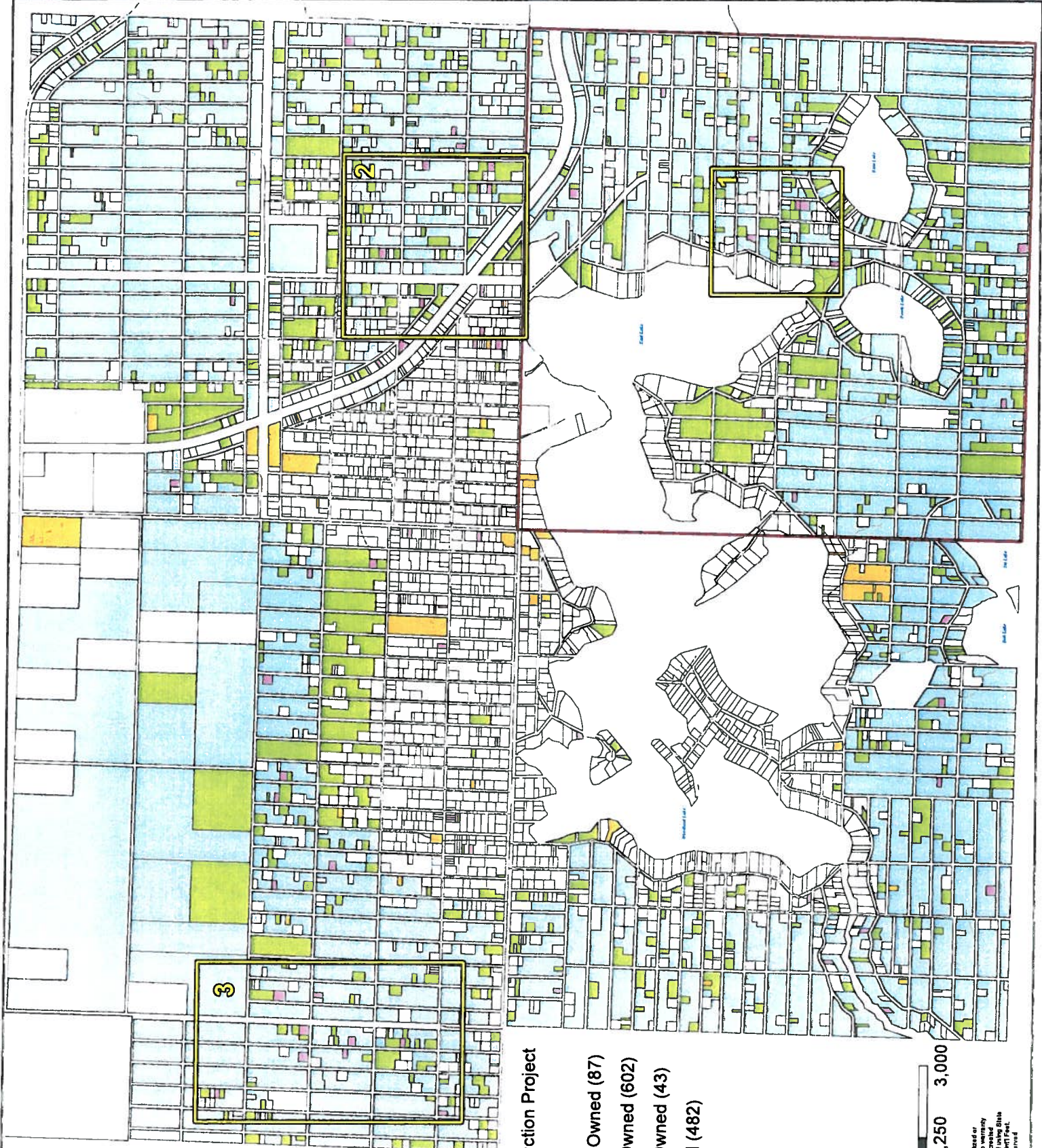
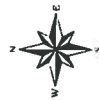
**Area #3**

Example No. 6 – No. 11: A combination of Treasurer owned and DNR owned property that could be large enough to stand alone or purchased by an existing neighbor. Again some of these combinations could give access to an existing road and some may be made even larger by adding USFS land.

# Newaygo County, Merrill Township

## Legend

- Proposed DNR Auction Project
- Roads
- Treasurer's Office Owned (87)
- US Government Owned (602)
- Merrill Township Owned (43)
- State/DNR Owned (482)
- Privately Owned
- Lakes



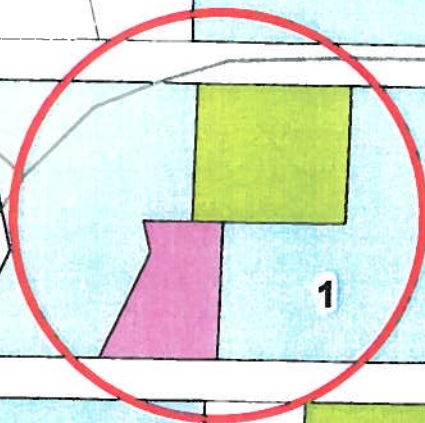
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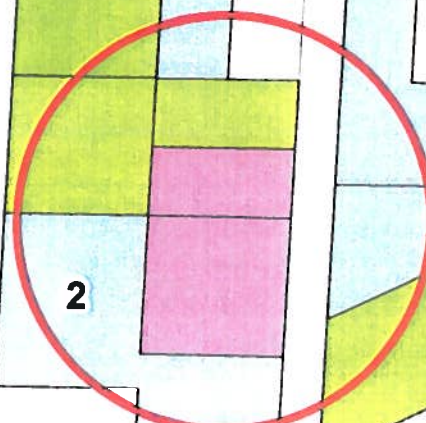
# Close-up Area 1

## Legend

- Roads
- Treasurer's Office Owned (87)
- US Government Owned (602)
- Merrill Township Owned (43)
- State/DNR Owned (482)
- Privately Owned
- Lakes



1



2

0 45 90 180 270 360 Feet



## Close-up Area 2





# Close-up Area 3

## Legend

- Roads
- Treasurer's Office Owned (87)
- US Government Owned (602)
- Merrill Township Owned (43)
- State/DNR Owned (482)
- Privately Owned
- Lakes



0 100 200 400 600 800 Feet